

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, UK, US, DG

SUBJECT:DIEGO GARCIA: PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

1. MILLINGTON, BRITISH EMBASSY, INFORMS US THAT MP ROBIN COOK HAS INDICATED HE MAY RAISE QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT REGARDING THE DISPLACED ISLANDERS FROM DIEGO GARCIA, AND THE POSSIBLE USE OF DIEGO BY B-52 BOMBERS. HIS INTEREST WAS AROUSED BY A SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE OF JUNE 20 PRIMARILY ABOUT ISLANDERS BUT CONTAINING THE STATEMENT THAT QUOTE THE RUNWAY ON THE ISLAND WILL NOW BE ABLE TO TAKE JUMBO JETS AND, IN EMERGENCIES, B-52 BOMBERS. UNQUOTE

2. ON THE QUESTION OF B-52S, THE UK PROPOSES THAT THE MINISTER OF STATE SHOULD REPLY (IF THE POINT IS RAISED), QUOTE THE AMERICANS HAVE SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RUNWAY WILL NOT PERMIT ITS USE FOR B-52 BOMBER OPERATIONS. UNQUOTE IF PRESSED HE WILL ADD QUOTE
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THE SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE ALLEGING THAT THE USA HAS NOW

EXPANDED THE DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES IN ORDER TO ENABLE
THEM TO BE USED BY B-52 BOMBERS IS INCORRECT. UNQUOTE

3. WE HAVE AGREED TO THE WORDING IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND HAVE
SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING, IF DEEMED NECESSARY: QUOTE ON

COMPLETION OF THE EXPANSION PROGRAM THE AIRFIELD AT DIEGO
GARCIA WILL BE NEITHER WIDE ENOUGH NOR STRONG ENOUGH TO
SUPPORT OPERATIONS BY B-52 BOMBERS. KISSINGER

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